Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNWFC, FAO, EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) AND INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR

 $AGRICULTURAL\ DEVELOPMENT\ (IFAD).$

REF: (A) ROME 9949 (B) USUN 3264

- 1. US REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO CALLED ON ALAIN VIDAL-NAQUET, ASSISTANT TO WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JULY 14, WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS ON WFC AND IFAD DEVELOPMENTS.
- 2. UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM HAS ASKED WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH TO REMAIN IN OFFICE THROUGH NEXT SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, DESPITE CRITICISM OF HIM BY G-77.
- 3. WFC GROUP ON PROCEDURES MEETING DATE IS BEING SUGGESTED BY WFC SECRETARIAT FOR EITHER SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3 OR OCTOBER 3-11. (CONFLICTING WITH IGC-WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OR INTERGOVERN-MENTAL GROUP ON GRAINS RESPECTIVELY.) WFC SECRETARIAT IS TRYING TO COMMUNICATE THIS TO MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE, WHO IS AWAY ON LEAVE, AND HAVE ASKED US REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO TO COMMUNICATE IT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO OECD-DAC COUNTRIES' REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH HE IS TRYING TO DO

WITH DIFFICULTY, BECAUSE MOST ARE FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF JULY-AUGUST VACATIONS, DESPITE UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER. AT SUGGESTION OF OTHERS, HE IS CONVENING GENEVA GROUP MEETING THRUSDAY, JULY 17.

4. ACTING FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL YRIART WROTE WFC SECRETARIAT, AS RESULT OF COMPLAINT OF COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO THAT NEXT IFAD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA RATHER THAN ROME (REFTEL (A), PARA. 7). YRIART PROFESSED SURPRISE THIS DECISION HAD BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO LACK OF FAO FACILITIES, AND OFFERED SUCH FACILITIES. GROUP-77 HAS ALSO OBJECTED FORMALLY TO GENEVA SITE. AT INSTANCE OF LATIN AMERICANS. VIDAL-NAQUET IS EXPLAINING TO YRIART THAT QUESTION WAS LACK OF BUDGET. WFC CANNOT PAY FAO COSTS, WHILE UN IN GENEVA CAN PROVIDE ITS FACILITIES WITHOUT CHARGE. VIDAL-NAOUET AND US REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSED DILEMMA OF SELECTING GENEVA VERSUS ROME AS SITE. MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, OPEC COUNTRIES, AND MAJOR RECIPIENTS (INDIA, PAKISTAN) SEND REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPI-TALS, SO IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO THEM. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, USE THEIR PREMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO. NOT ALL OF THESE ARE HELPFUL EITHER FROM WFC OF US VIEW-POINT, E.G. MEXICO, GABON, SENEGAL AND ALGERIA (THE LAST SURPRIS-ING BECUASE HE IS PERSONALLY FRIENDLY AND WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD U.S. ROLE IN FOOD PROBLEMS: HE MUST HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED OR BE TAKING CUES FROM OTHERS). SOME BUT NOT ALL OF GENERAL LDC COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES MAY GO TO GENEVA FROM ROME, BUT EFFECT OF HOLDING MEETING IN GENEVA WILL BE GENERALLY TO IMPAIR DIALOGUE BETWEEN DC'S AND LDC'S. OUTLOOK TOWARD WFC SECRETARIAT WILL PROBABLY BE MORE FAVORABLE IN GENEVA THAN ROME, BUT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT (CERD AND NIEO) MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT IN GENEVA THAN IT WOULD BE IN ROME.

5. NIDAL-NAQUET WILL AUDIT ECOSOC MEETING, AND HAS HIGH HOPES ECOSOC WILL NOT REOPEN CONTROVERSY OVER WFC INITIAL SESSION. MEXICO AND CUBA, HE SAYS, WILL TRY TO REOPEN IT, BUT THEY ARE NOT BACKED BY REST OF LATIN AMERICAN BLOC. CONSERVATIVE AFRICANS, HE SAYS, SHOULD BE ABLE TO BLOCK RADICAL AFRICANS. IF WFC ISSUES PASS EASILY THROUGH ECOSOC, HE ANTICIPATES LITTLE PROBLEM IN SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA.VOLPE

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